

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, PINT, EAID, GW, AU, PO, SP, GR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING THE FRG DEFENSE MINISTER
LEBER MARCH 16, 1977

SUMMARY: SECRETARY VANCE MET FOR FORTY-FIVE MINUTES
MARCH 16 WITH FRG DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER. THEY DIS-
CUSSED SALT/MBFR, PORTUGAL AND GREECE/TURKEY/CYPRUS.
END SUMMARY

1. SALT/MBFR: LEBER EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE IN-
CREASED STRENGTH OF THE WARSAW PACT IN THE AREA OF CON-
VENTIONAL FORCES. HE NOTED THAT THE EAST NOW HAD GAINED
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SUPERIORITY IN THAT AREA DURING THE PERIOD THAT THE WEST
HAD SCALED DOWN ITS OWN STRATEGIC FORCES TO ROUGH PARITY
WITH THE EAST. HE SAID THAT THE WESTERN EFFORT SHOULD
NOW BE AIMED AT CONVINCING THE SOVIETS THAT THEY SHOULD
REDUCE THEIR CONVENTIONAL FORCES SO AS TO DEMONSTRATE
THE SAME SORT OF RESTRAINT THAT THE WEST HAD SHOWN IN
THE STRATEGIC FIELD. WITHOUT THIS BALANCING OF CON-

VENTIONAL FORCES AS WELL, HE DOUBTED THAT DETENTE COULD CONTINUE.

2. THE SECRETARY AGREED THAT SOME IMBALANCE HAD DEVELOPED IN CONVENTIONAL FORCES. HE THOUGHT THAT NATO SHOULD BE STRENGTHENING ITS STANCE IN THIS AREA WHILE STILL TRYING TO EXPLORE THE PROSPECTS FOR SERIOUS MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. HE NONETHELESS FELT THAT WE HAD TO PRESS AHEAD WITH SALT NEGOTIATIONS, GIVEN THEIR IMPORTANCE, PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF SALT I THIS FALL SINCE ANY PROGRESS IN MBFR WOULD BE SLOW. LEBER AGREED WITH THIS APPROACH. HE DID NOT WISH TO MAKE A LINKAGE BETWEEN SALT AND MBFR BUT HE THOUGHT THE SOVIETS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THERE WAS A FACTUAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO.

3. PORTUGAL: LEBER SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL. HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT TO KEEP IT IN THE MAINSTREAM OF THE ALLIANCE. BOTH THE FRG AND US HAD WORKED HARD TOWARD THAT END BUT WE NOW NEEDED TO MOBILIZE THE OTHER ALLIES. THE SECRETARY AGREED, NOTING THAT WE HAD ASKED THE BRITISH TO HELP OUT WHEN CALLAGHAN WAS IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK. THE BRITISH HAD TOLD US THEY WOULD HELP AND WOULD RAISE PORTUGAL IN THE EC CONTEXT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. THE SECRETARY COMMENTED THAT THE US HAD ALREADY ASSISTED PORTUGAL WITH A 300 MILLION DOLLAR LOAN BUT A LARGER AND MORE LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE PACKAGE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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REQUIRED. WE HAD URGED THE FRG TO PARTICIPATE IN A CONSORTIUM OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES AND WE HOPED THE FRG WOULD AGREE TO DO SO. LEBER SAID THAT THE PORTUGUESE NEEDED TO HELP THEMSELVES AS WELL. THEY HAD TO WORK TO CREATE THE RIGHT SORTS OF INTERNAL CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT. NOT ALL THE EFFORTS COULD COME FROM THE OUTSIDE. THE SECRETARY SAID HE SHARED THIS VIEW, BUT HE STRESSED THAT PORTUGAL BADLY NEEDED SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE NOW IF IT WAS TO SUCCEED.

5. GREECE/TURKEY/CYPRUS: LEBER SAID THAT HE HAD COME AWAY FROM HIS VISITS LAST YEAR TO GREECE AND TURKEY WITH A STRONG IMPRESSION OF JUST HOW DIFFICULT THE SITUATION WAS. THE FRG HAD BEEN TRYING TO HELP BOTH SIDES WITH MILITARY ASSISTANCE. IN TURKEY, THE PROBLEMS WERE PARTICULARLY SERIOUS, NOT LEAST BECAUSE OF THE CUTOFF OF US MILITARY AID. THE FRG COULD NOT SUPPLANT THE US ROLE IN TURKEY IN THIS PARTICULAR FIELD. THE TURKS NEEDED HELP.

6. THE SECRETARY SAID HE WAS WELL AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS IN THAT AREA OF THE WORLD. HE DESCRIBED THE RECENT CLIFFORD MISSION AND SAID WE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT IN THE NEXT ROUND OF VIENNA TALKS, BOTH THE GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOT DELEGATIONS WOULD BE MAKING SOME PROPOSALS. IF THERE WAS PROGRESS THERE, THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL WITH CONGRESS, WHICH WAS WATCHING THE SITUATION CAREFULLY. WITHOUT SUCH PROGRESS, THE US ADMINISTRATION DID NOT SEE ANY CHANCE OF GETTING THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT THROUGH THE CONGRESS. THERE WAS A LINKAGE OF THE TWO THINGS IN THE VIEW OF CONGRESS, NOTWITHSTANDING TURKISH VIEWS TO THE CONTRARY.

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